

would have wanted. I know my brother and I shall terribly miss him, but we know that this is not a goodbye but rather a time apart before we are reunited once again next to our creator.

#### HONORING JORDAN PAUL NAZARIO

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Paul Nazario. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader and Quartermaster. Jordan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jordan built a shed for his church's garden ministry, allowing the church to safely store hoses, wheelbarrows and other necessary garden equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Paul Nazario for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY OPPORTUNITY ACT

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to re-introduce the "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act," legislation to create new opportunities for careers in the U.S. Coast Guard with a geographically and politically diverse group of colleagues. They are: Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland, Representative JOHN DUNCAN of Tennessee, Delegate MADELEINE BORDALLO of Guam, Representative CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Representative YVETTE CLARKE of New York, Delegate PEDRO PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, Representative MICHAEL MICHAUD of Maine, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Representative JANICE HAHN of California, Delegate GREGORIO SABLAN of the Northern Mariana Islands, Representative JACK KINGSTON of Georgia, and Representative KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota.

Currently, Members of Congress are allowed to nominate a limited number of candidates to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. However, the smallest of the five federal service academies—the U.S. Coast Guard Academy

(USCGA)—does not accept congressional nominations.

Instead, the USCGA admits candidates through a process that resembles the admissions processes of civilian colleges and universities. Without a congressional nominations process, the applicant pool of candidates to the USCGA is predictably less geographically diverse than at the other military service academies. The inevitable result of a less geographically diverse applicant pool is a less geographically diverse class. The statistics bear this out; in fact, the incoming Class of 2016 does not have a single cadet from: Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam.

Under the "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act," starting in academic year 2014, each Member of Congress could nominate up to three qualified candidates to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In turn, the Coast Guard would be required to fill a quarter of slots for the incoming class from this pool of congressional nominations comprised of qualified, geographically diverse applicants. Then, in each subsequent academic year, half of the slots in each incoming class would have to be filled through the congressional nominations process.

This legislation would not require the Coast Guard to lower its student selection criteria or increase the size of the student population. To the contrary, it anticipates that the Coast Guard will continue to use its criteria to select the best candidates from the pool of Member-nominated candidates for half of the slots in the incoming class, just as it will do to fill the slots in the other half of the incoming class. The "Coast Guard Academy Opportunity Act" simply seeks to make Congress a partner in helping to put talented young people—from every corner of the country—on the path to a rewarding career in the U.S. Coast Guard.

I urge support of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

#### A FAILED POLICY ON SUDAN

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as of Friday, March 15, the position of Sudan special envoy at the State Department has been vacant.

This vacancy is symptomatic of a president that has all but forsaken the people of Sudan.

Last December a group of prominent Sudan activists and advocates wrote a letter to the administration, which I submit for the RECORD, expressing their "grave concerns that the current U.S. policy is ineffective at stopping mass atrocities in Sudan." They urged President Obama, in his second term, to embrace "an urgent shift in the U.S. policy to finally end the humanitarian crises and bring about a just and lasting peace in Sudan."

The letter cited the president's own words from 2007 when he rightly called the genocide in Darfur a "stain on our souls" and said that "as a president of the United States I don't intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter."

And yet, I can't help but wonder if the people of Darfur, who have been displaced from their homes and brutalized by violence for ten years now, do in fact feel abandoned by this president and this administration.

On March 7, CNN featured a piece by the chairman of the Darfur Union in the United Kingdom, himself a Darfuri. Tellingly, he wrote, "... Khartoum's attempt to establish a racially pure Islamic state involves waging war against its own unarmed civilians, systematically and with impunity. In Darfur this has lasted a decade. The U.N. estimates that 300,000 Darfuris have died since 2003, but it hasn't bothered to estimate casualty numbers since 2008. With fighting continuing to this day, the number is likely to be far higher. The world assumes 'Darfur is over.' It isn't."

Not only is Darfur's nightmare ongoing, but Khartoum's brutality has only spread, consistent with its decades' long effort to systematically and ruthlessly consolidate power resulting in the death and displacement of untold thousands. More recently the Nuban people have been driven from their homes, targeted for killing and terrorized because of the color of their skin. Khartoum has indiscriminately bombed civilian populations—disrupting an entire way of life for this largely farming population. Starvation, death and despair have followed. I have visited the refugee camps and talked with the people personally. I have heard their pleas for help and I have conveyed their message to this administration—a message which fell on largely deaf ears.

On March 19, USA Today featured a joint op-ed by actor and co-founder of the anti-genocide organization Not On Our Watch, Don Cheadle, and John Prendergast the co-founder of the Enough Project, in the op-ed wrote, "By excluding all but a narrow clique of Sudanese from access to the power and wealth of the country, marginalized groups from the west (Darfur), south (Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains) and east have all taken up arms against that regime. . . . Any peace effort should deal comprehensively with all the rebel movements, the unarmed opposition, and civil society, in search of a solution for the whole of Sudan. Until the abusive governing system in Sudan is radically reformed, there will be blood."

Indeed, much blood has been shed, and yet inexplicably this administration has embraced a policy of engagement marked by conciliatory outreach to Khartoum, including the prospect of debt relief for a genocidal government, and a perverse sense of moral equivalence in dealing with South Sudan and Sudan.

While there has been criticism of two successive special envoys, ultimately they were merely the implementers of a policy that is inherently flawed and ultimately ineffective. In fact, I am grateful for the dedication and efforts of both Ambassadors Scott Gration and Princeton Lyman both of whom have poured much time and energy into a daunting task. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

In a February 12 letter to Secretary of State Kerry I wrote, "Our approach to Sudan and South Sudan needs reinvigorating. It demands a renewed sense of moral clarity about who we are dealing with in Khartoum—namely genocidaires. It necessitates someone who can speak candidly with our friends in South Sudan about their own internal challenges, including corruption, and shortcomings as a new nation. While an envoy alone does not a policy make, a high-profile special envoy, from